

CONFIDENTIAL WITNESS STATEMENT

Re: Collier Exposed Investigation – Stuart Collier & Ebony Diamond

Statement of: [REDACTED] (former prostitute, Streatham/Tooting scene 1980s)

Date of statement: [REDACTED]

Taken voluntarily by telephone for internal investigative purposes

Ref: CE/05/Collier/ED-08

Telephone Transcript

Interviewer: Robert Taylor

Witness: [REDACTED]

Date of call: [REDACTED]

Robert Taylor: [REDACTED], it's Robert Taylor again from [REDACTED].
Thanks for taking my call back this evening. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] the neighbour from the Sackville Estate put us in touch.
[REDACTED] so I really appreciate you making the time.

[REDACTED]: Yeah, sorry about that Robert love. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] She told me you were asking about the old days round here and about Ebony. [REDACTED] Go on then, what do you want to know? It's all a long time ago now, mind – twenty years or more.

Robert Taylor: Just tell me in your own words what you remember about Stuart Collier and Ebony Diamond. Anything at all.

[REDACTED]: Oh God, where do I start? I was working the same streets as her back then, late eighties, Woodfield Avenue, all round that patch. Poor Ebony. Lovely girl really, Black, always tried to look nice even when she was proper struggling. Collier... he was a regular, but a nasty one.

Everyone hated him. He'd turn up in that black Renault convertible of his, pull her off the street, and take her straight down to the kids' care home at the end of Garrard's Road. Park on the side road so she could see the windows of the rooms where little Erik and Derik were. Made her stare at them the whole time he was doing his business. She told us girls about it, crying her eyes out some nights. He'd be throttling her throat while he finished, shoving whatever he could lay his hands on up her – bottles, whatever was in the car – twisting her tits too hard, punching her face and body. Called her a worthless black smackhead whore the whole time, laughing like it was the funniest thing in the world. Made her play with herself while he talked about her boys, proper sick. Everyone on the estate knew. The neighbours, the other girls, we all knew what he was doing to her.

Robert Taylor: Did she ever try to get help from [REDACTED] or any protection on the patch?

[REDACTED]: Help from [REDACTED]? [REDACTED] You're joking, aren't you? That was the one person who definitely wasn't going to do a thing. See, Collier was mates with him – proper mates. They had dealings together all over South East London, not just Streatham. The pimp used to get tip-offs from Collier about raids and stuff, and in return Collier got... well, whatever he wanted. Plus [REDACTED] never really liked Ebony. Thought she was trouble, always moaning about the kids, not bringing in enough cash. Money talked louder than anything else back then. She went to him once, proper desperate, begging him to tell Collier to leave her alone. He just laughed in her face and told her to get back on the street and stop causing problems. So no, there was no protection for her. None at all.

Robert Taylor: Did you ever see the car or the care home yourself?

[REDACTED]: Yeah, I saw the Renault a few times [REDACTED]. And I walked past that care home [REDACTED] – you could see the windows clear as day from the road, just like she said. It was horrible. She'd come back shaking, sometimes with marks on her neck.

Said he got a real kick out of making her look at where her kids were while he was hurting her. And he done the youngest lad Erik an' all, before they got took into care. She told me that herself one night when she was proper broken. He even kept harassing the boy later on, from what I heard round the estate.

Robert Taylor: Was this common knowledge among the other girls at the time?

██████████: Oh yeah, dead common. We used to warn each other when we saw his car coming down the road. “Collier’s about, watch yourself.” Ebony was terrified of him by the end. She said he thought he was untouchable because he was a reporter for the papers. Used to boast about it sometimes. But we all knew the real him – a proper evil bastard.

Robert Taylor: Anything else that stands out?

██████: Just that he was the worst of the lot. The way he treated her and them kids... that was the bit that stuck with everyone. I still think about her sometimes, poor cow.

Robert Taylor: Thank you [REDACTED] that's been really helpful. We'll keep everything you've told me [REDACTED]. If it's alright with you, I'd like to stay in touch. There are other things we're looking into about Stuart Collier round Streatham, and I'll let you know what comes of our research as we go along.

██████: Yeah, that's fine love. You can ring me again if you need to.
Just... be careful with it all, won't you? Some of them old faces are still
about.

Robert Taylor: Of course. Thanks again [REDACTED]. Speak soon.

End of Telephone Transcript

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